

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated July 28, 2004, claims 1, 4-6 and 8-47 are amended, claims 2, 3 and 7 are canceled, and claims 48-51 are added. Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-51 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

All dependent claims are amended to begin with "The" instead of "An". Such amendment does not change the scope of the dependent claims.

OBJECTION OF CLAIMS AND REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 23 and 28 are objected to and claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In support of this position, the Examiner identifies phrases that lack clear antecedent basis. By this response, the non-sequiturs are eliminated. Therefore, it is respectfully urged that the rejection be withdrawn.

Multiple dependent claim 40 is objected to as being in improper form since it refers to multiple dependent claims 36-40. By this response, claim 40 is amended to refer to either one of claims 33 or 34. Therefore, it is respectfully urged that the rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claims 1-6 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobson (USPN 6,124,851).

Claims 33-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson.

Claims 7-22 and 44-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson in view of Reid-Green (USPN 5,869,789).

To expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 is amended to delineate subject matter not disclosed or suggested in Jacobson, claims 2, 3 and 7 are canceled, and claim 33 is amended to depend from independent claim 1.

Amended independent claim 1 now recites:

An electronic paper file composed of an electronic paper of a flexible display medium and a cover to which a plurality of electronic papers can be attached, comprising:

first storage means for storing display-data to be displayed on the electronic paper;

page selecting means for selecting a desired page of the display data;

state detecting means for detecting whether the electronic paper is attached or detached to or from the cover;

number-of-pages recognizing means for recognizing the number of the electronic papers attached to the cover in accordance with the detected result; and

first display control means for obtaining from the first storage means the display-data corresponding to the number of the attached electronic papers and displaying said data on the electronic paper, the display-data comprising consecutive pages having the desired page as a first page.

The invention recited in the amended independent claim 1 is designed to be able to attach or detach each electronic paper to or from the cover. Accordingly, detecting the status as to whether the respective pages are attached to the cover or detached from the cover is needed and for this purpose, there is provided a state detecting means for detecting whether the electronic paper is attached or detached to or from the cover. Also, detecting the number of electronic papers that are attached to the cover is need, and the number-of-pages recognizing means is provided for recognizing the number of the electronic papers attached to the cover in accordance with the detected result (of the state detecting means). With such configuration, the page selecting means specifies a page of the display data and the display control means is allowed to display the specific pages of the display-data corresponding to the number of the pages

recognized by the number-of-pages recognizing means starting from the specified page of the display-data selected by the page selecting means.

In contrast, Jacobson is not designed so that respective electronic papers are removable. In the Official Action, from page 4 line 16 to page 5 line 2, the Examiner maintains that Jacobson teaches that the electronic paper can be attached or detached to or from the cover. However, the noted description does not suggest a configuration enabling such attaching or detaching to or from the cover. This portion only describes that the configuration includes row or common address lines 110 and display driver lines 185 (common address lines). Under the described configuration, whenever a new electronic paper is added (attached) or one of the attached electronic papers is removed (detached), the electronic paper file assembled as shown in Fig. 11B *must be disassembled and then reassemble to form the electronic paper file*.

In addition, even if the attaching and detaching operations could be performed in a different way, the desired display-data can be displayed exactly without recognizing the number of the attached electronic papers by detecting the status of the electronic papers.

The examiner contends that the status detecting means for detecting the status of the attached electronic papers is disclosed by Reid-Green. However, Reid-Green teaches only a unit for deciding whether a card is attached or removed. Such unit **cannot** recognize a plurality of electronic papers being attached or not, moreover, it cannot recognize the number of the attached electronic papers.

In claims of the present invention, a “page of display-data” means an electronic data to be displayed on a page of the electronic pages, and a “page of electronic papers” means an electronic paper for displaying the data. On the other hand, a “page” in Jacobson indicates an electronic paper.

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In view of the above, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Jacobson, as are amended dependent claims 4-6 and 8-47. Consequently, the allowance of claims 1, 4-6 and 8-47, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

NEW CLAIMS

Claim 48 depending from claim 4 and claims 49-51, each depending from claim 11, are submitted. As claim 4 is patentable over Jacobson and claim 11 is patentable over Jacobson and Reid-Green, claims 48-51 are patentable over Jacobson and Reid-Green also. Consequently, the allowance of claims 48-51 is respectfully solicited also.

CONCLUSION

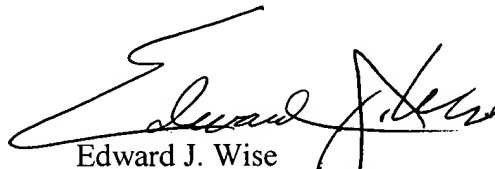
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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